



SPECIAL *CRISIS* CROSS-OVER

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

75¢
55
MAR. 86
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BONUS!
SANDMAN

MONDAY



by
ROY THOMAS
ARVELL JONES
& TIM BURGARD

STRIKING!

Lightning™ – The Hot New Radio Controlled Racer From Monogram

Introducing Lightning™, the slick RC off-road dune buggy that roars over gravel, dirt, pavement, grass and more at scale speeds exceeding 150 mph! You'll experience the daredevil thrill of high speed driving with your own dual stick radio transmitter. Wipe outs, spins, rolls, and crashes are all part of the fun as the rugged Lightning just bounces back and races on. You can build this powerful 1/10 scale speedster in less than an hour, whereas comparably performing radio controlled cars are far more complicated to assemble. Take a spin with Lightning. It's high speed radio controlled adventure from Monogram.



DESIGNED FOR DETAIL.
BUILT FOR FUN™

Lightning™



Battery Pack and Charger

Silver Lightning

Transmitter



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1942—a world at war! And against the forces of Axis darkness, the mightiest heroes of Earth-Two have banded together, under direct orders of the President, as the

ROY DANN THOMAS • ARVELL JONES • VINCE COLETTA DAVID WEISS CARL GAFFORD
WRITERS PENCILLER (P. 1-10) INKER (P. 1-16) LETTERER COLORIST

**ALL-STAR
SQUADRON**

CRISIS AT CANAVERAL!

IT BEGAN AS A PERSONAL MISSION FOR YOU, FIREBRAND
DIDN'T IT, DANETTE REILLY, ALIAS

JOURNEY TO THE SUMMER OF 1985—FIND TERRI
ROTHSTEIN, THE WOMAN WHO WAS ONCE YOUR
GODCHILD AND WHO IS, IN THIS FUTURE, THE MOTHER
OF THE YOUNG HERO CALLED NUKLON.

THAT'S WHY YOU WENT, BUT WHY DID THE
SUPER-BEING CALLED HARBINGER LET YOU
UNDERTAKE SUCH A MISSION, IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS? AND
WHY DID SHE FORCE YOU TO TAKE ALONG
OTHER HEROES FROM THE WORLD'S
MORE DISTANT PAST?

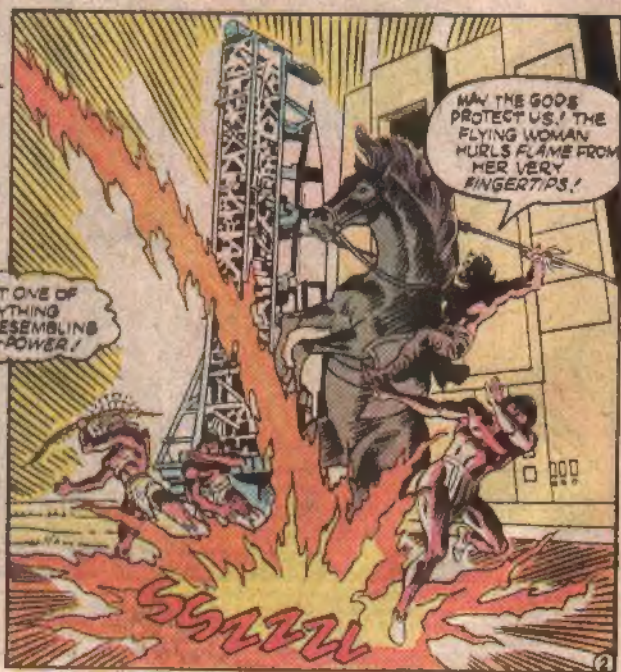
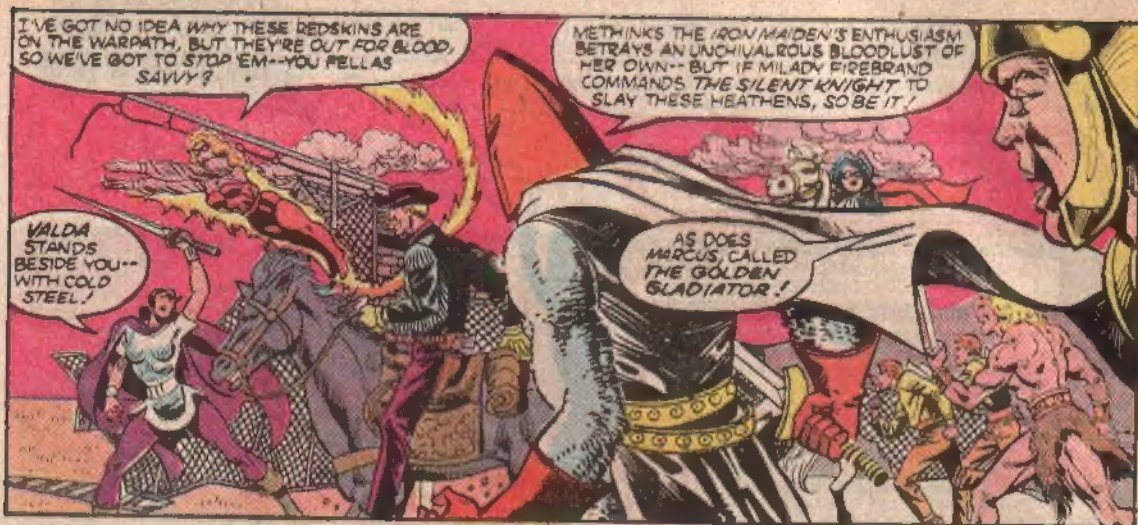
HOLD
YOUR GROUND,
SOLDIERS! THE
CAVALRY'S
ARRIVED!

YYAAAAA

WAS IT BECAUSE SHE KNEW
YOU WOULD ARRIVE IN 1985
FLORIDA TO FIND THE PLACE
CALLED KENNEDY SPACE
CENTER UNDER SIEGE BY
WILDLY WHOOPING INDIANS
FROM NEARLY EVERY TIME
PERIOD ON THE AMERICAN
CONTINENT?

"A hero is no braver than an ordinary man,
but he is braver five minutes longer."
—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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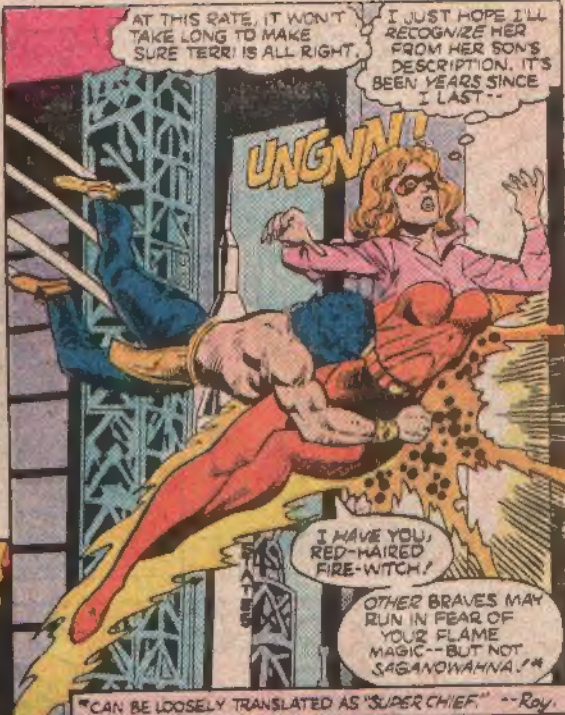


NICE SHOT, IF I MUST SAY SO MYSELF.

JUST CLOSE ENOUGH TO SINGE A FEW FEATHERS, AND PUT A GOOD SCARE INTO A FEW OF 'EM.



I'LL JUST SWOOP ON AHEAD, AND LET "HISTORY'S HEROES" CLEAN UP THE INDIANS AROUND THE FRINGES.



AT THIS RATE, IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO MAKE SURE TERRI IS ALL RIGHT.

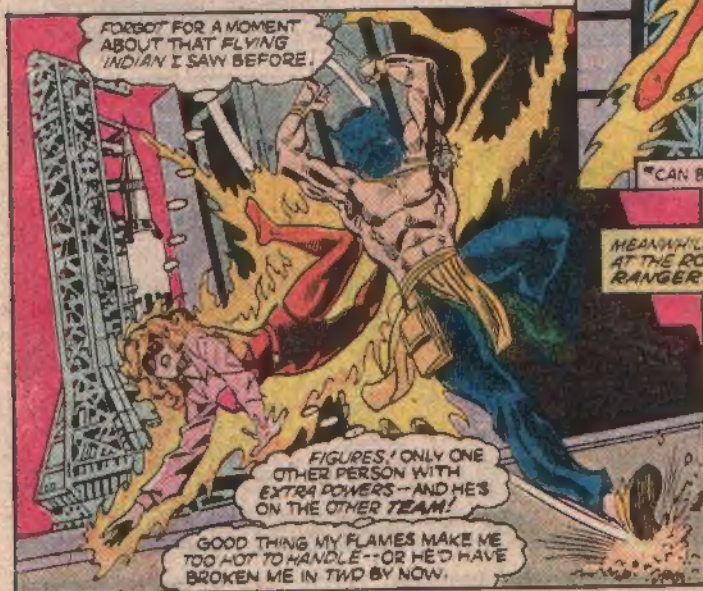
I JUST HOPE I'LL RECOGNIZE HER FROM HER SON'S DESCRIPTION. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST--

UUNNN!

I HAVE YOU, RED-HAIRED FIRE-WITCH!

OTHER BRAVES MAY RUN IN FEAR OF YOUR FLAME MAGIC--BUT NOT SASANOWAHNA!

"CAN BE LOOSELY TRANSLATED AS "SUPER CHIEF" --Roy.

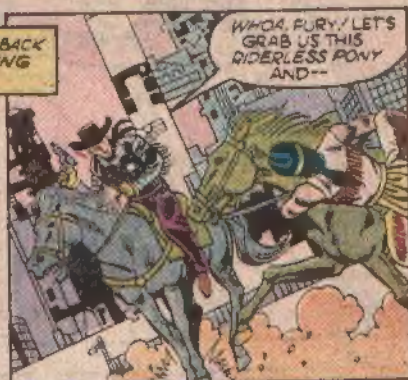


FORGOT FOR A MOMENT ABOUT THAT FLYING INDIAN I SAW BEFORE.

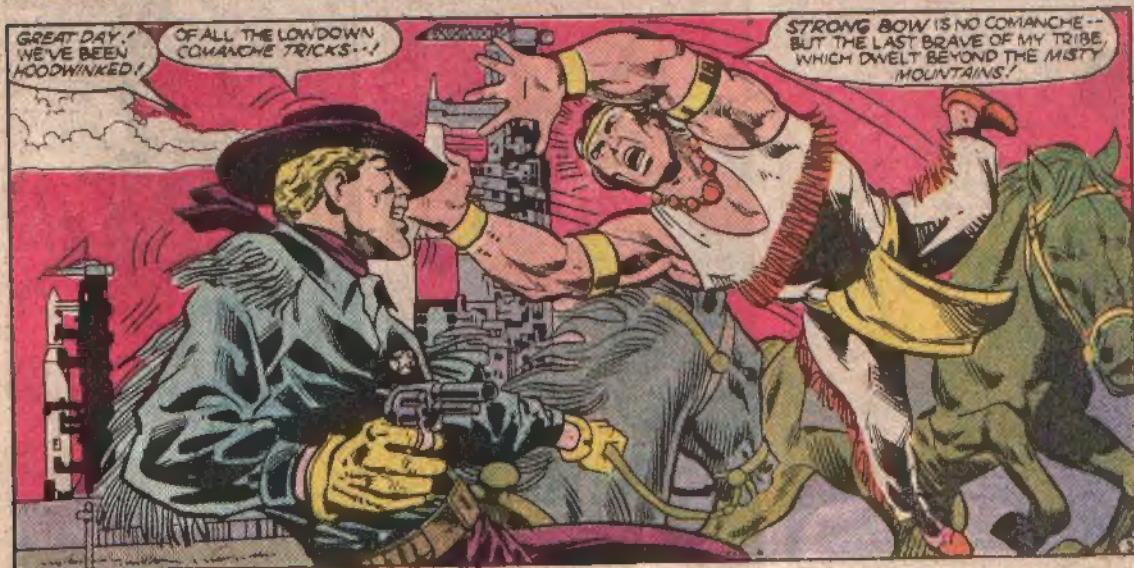
FIGURES! ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON WITH EXTRA POWERS--AND HE'S ON THE OTHER TEAM!

GOOD THING MY FLAMES MAKE ME TOO HOT TO HANDLE--OR HE'D HAVE BROKEN ME IN TWO BY NOW.

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE ROVING RANGER...



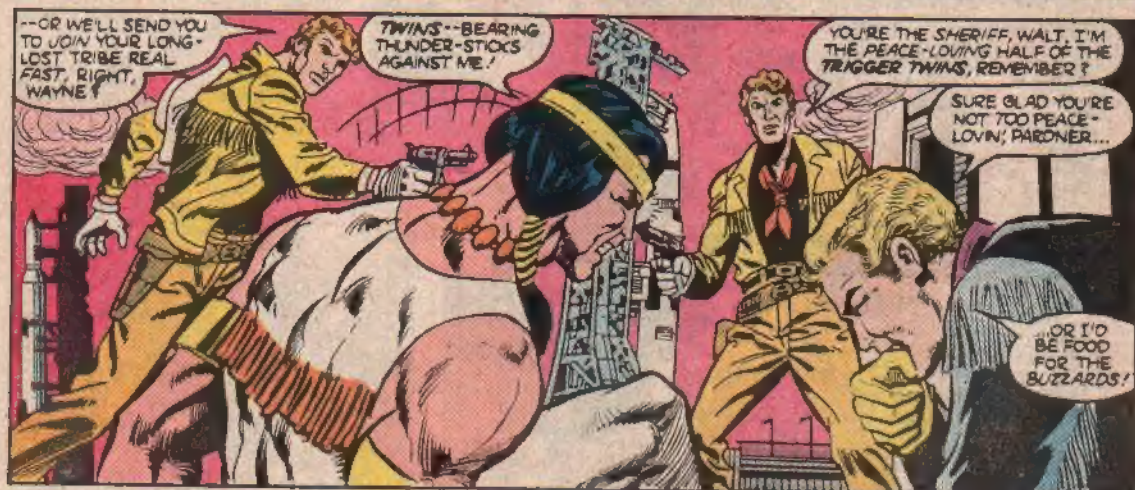
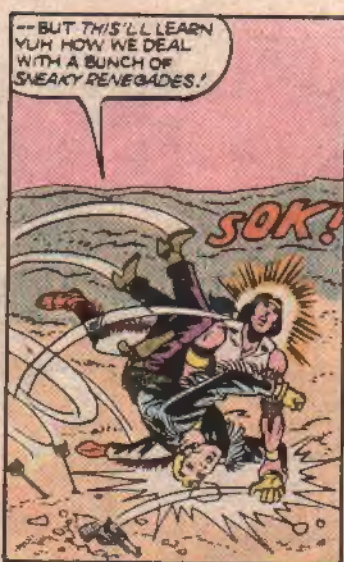
WHOA, FURY! LET'S GRAB US THIS RIDERLESS PONY AND--



GREAT DAY! WE'VE BEEN HOODWINKED!

OF ALL THE LOWDOWN COMANCHE TRICKS--!

STRONG BOW IS NO COMANCHE-- BUT THE LAST BRAVE OF MY TRIBE, WHICH DWELT BEYOND THE MISTY MOUNTAINS!



STRIKING!

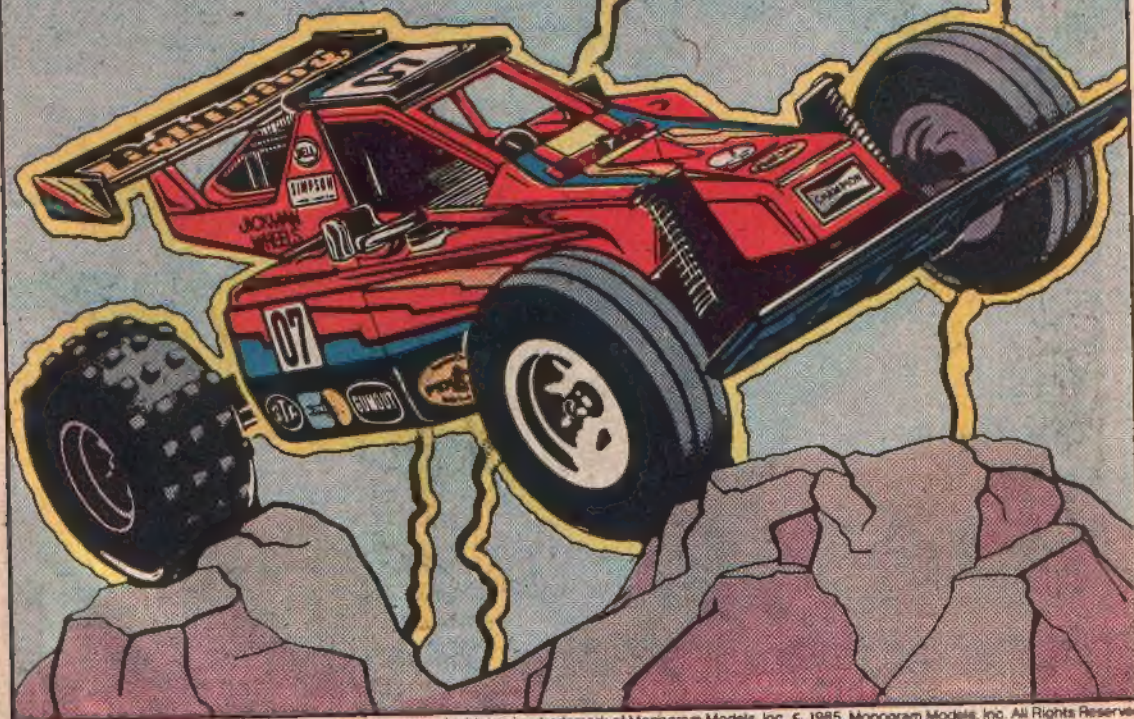
Lightning™ - The Hot New Radio Controlled Racer From Monogram

Introducing Lightning™, the slick RC off-road dune buggy that roars over gravel, dirt, pavement, grass and more at scaled speeds exceeding 150 mph! You'll experience the daredevil thrill of high speed driving with your own dual stick radio transmitter. Wipe outs, spins, rolls, and crashes are all part of the fun as the rugged Lightning just bounces back and races on. You can build this powerful 1/10 scale speedster in less than an hour, whereas comparably performing radio controlled cars are far more complicated to assemble. Take a spin with Lightning. It's high speed radio controlled adventure from Monogram.



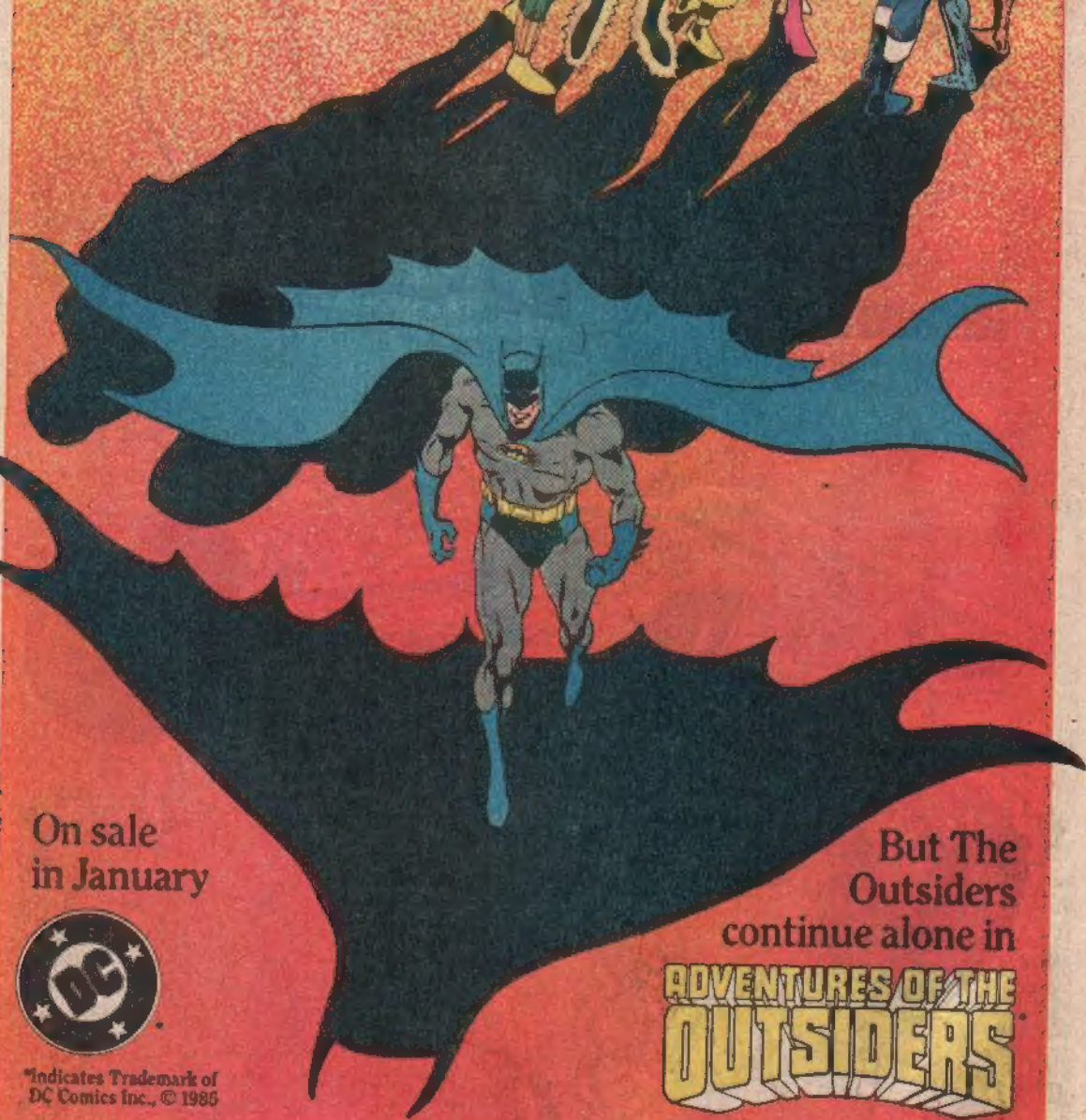
DESIGNED FOR DETAIL.
BUILT FOR FUN™

Lightning™



It had to happen.

BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS^{*} #32



On sale
in January

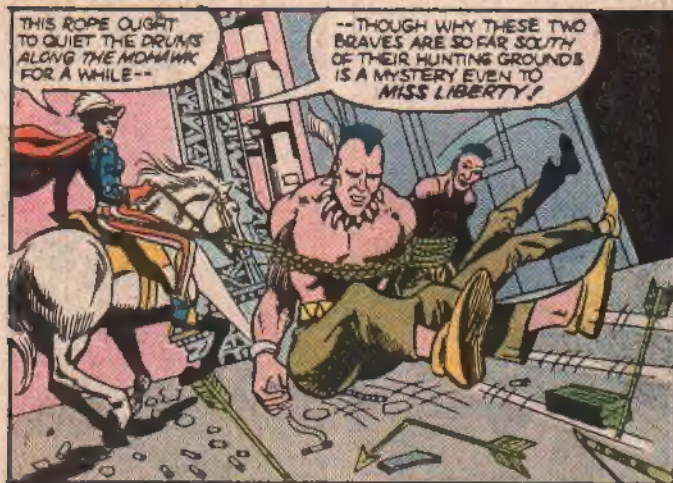


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But The
Outsiders
continue alone in

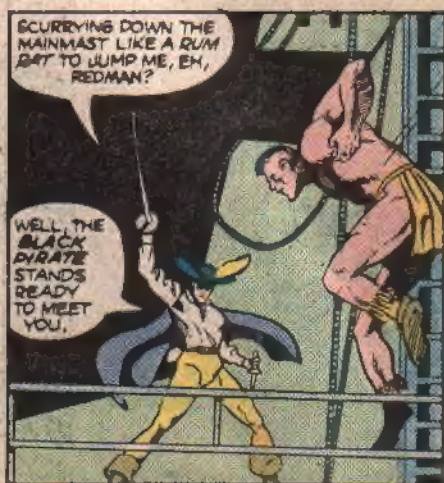
ADVENTURES OF THE OUTSIDERS





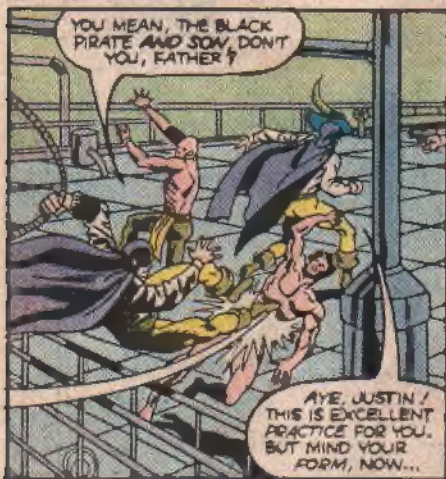
THIS ROPE OUGHT TO QUIET THE DRUMS ALONG THE MDMANK FOR A WHILE--

--THOUGH WHY THESE TWO BRAVES ARE SO FAR SOLITY OF THEIR HUNTING GROUNDS IS A MYSTERY EVEN TO MISS LIBERTY!



SCURRYING DOWN THE MAINMAST LIKE A RUM RAT TO JUMP ME, EH, REDMAN?

WELL, THE BLACK PIRATE STANDS READY TO MEET YOU.



YOU MEAN, THE BLACK PIRATE AND SON, DON'T YOU, FATHER?

AYE, JUSTIN! THIS IS EXCELLENT PRACTICE FOR YOU. BUT MIND YOUR FORM, NOW...

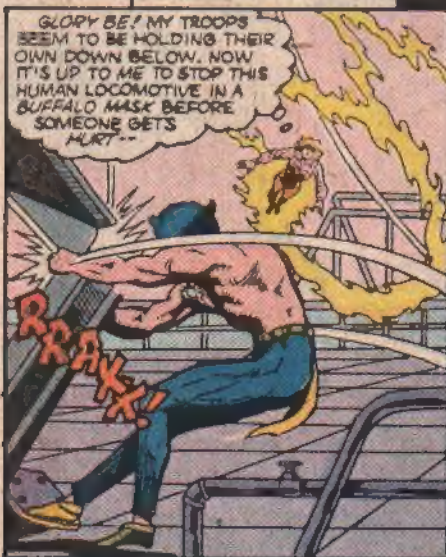


--AS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MINDING MY OWN!

SINCE THEY ARE WILLING TO KILL, AND WE ARE NOT--



--WE MUST RESORT TO LESS DIRECT METHODS!

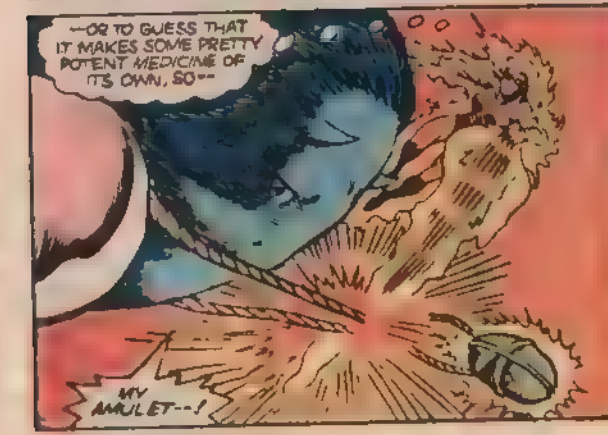
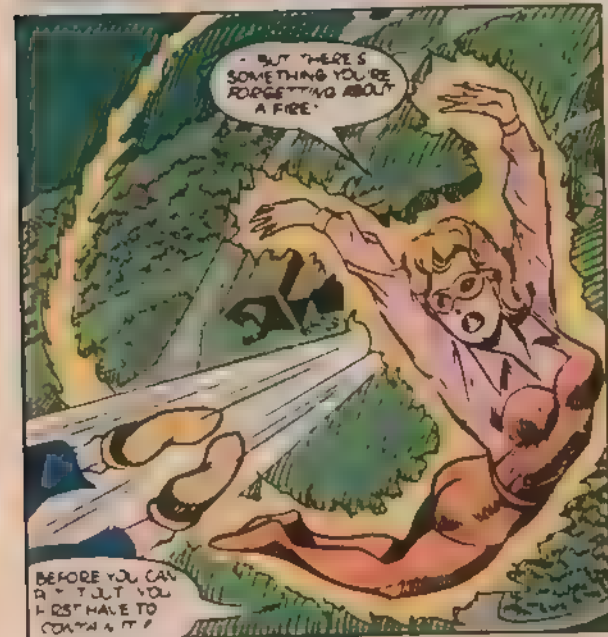
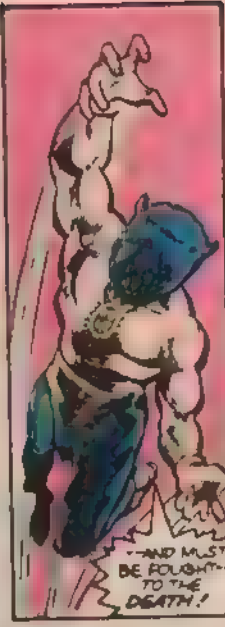


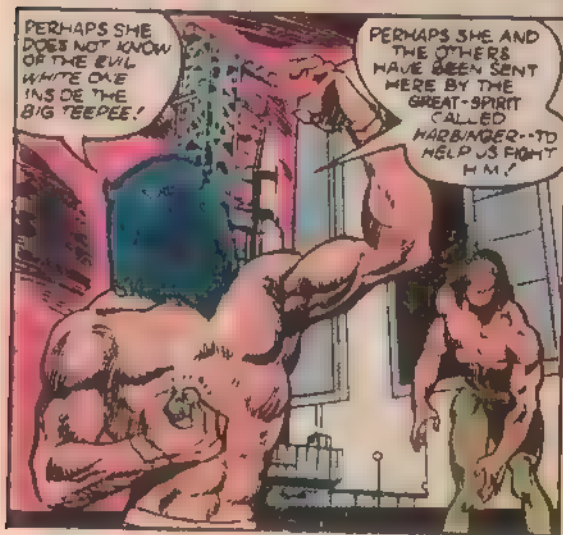
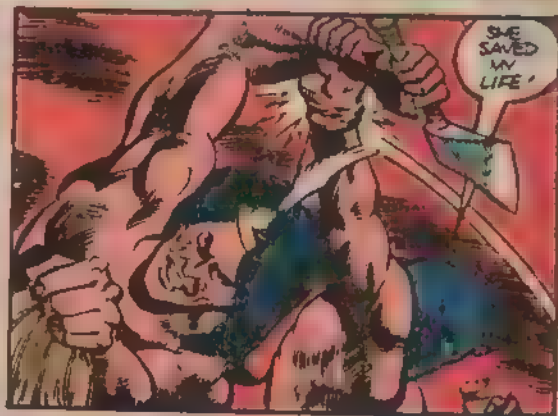
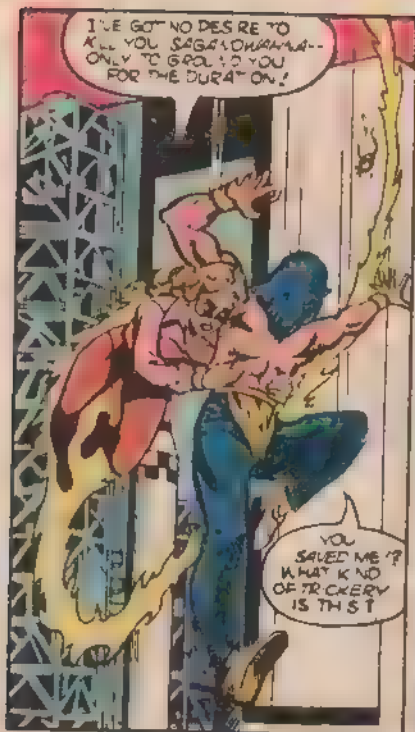
GLORY BE! MY TROOPS SEEM TO BE HOLDING THEIR OWN DOWN BELOW. NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO STOP THIS HUMAN LOCOMOTIVE IN A BUFFALO MASK BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT--



--MOST LIKELY, ME!

TIME OUT, SUPER CHIEF! I MEAN--CAN WE BURY THE HATCHET LONG ENOUGH FOR A POW-WOW?





HELLO BOYS & GIRLS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Just for you straight from the North Pole—Santa and his helpers will send you a letter with a Christmas Message and a surprise. Just fill in the coupon and mail before Christmas.

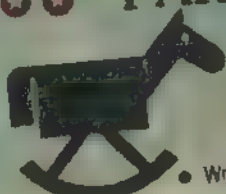
SANTA CLAUS
The North Pole

Christmas 1985

Dear (your child's name here)
I am so happy to be able to write this special letter to you this Christmas, and I hope you enjoy all your toys and gifts which you will receive from all the people who love you so much during the year. There are so many good things I have been hearing about you. My personal thanks to you during the Christmas season.



PARENTS



- Addressed to your child and mailed directly to your child.
- A thrilling surprise for any child.
- Santa's name and return address on every letter & envelope
- Written in simple, easy to read language
- Envelope marked "Do not open until Christmas"

IF you'd like Santa to write to more than 3 children, please enclose your own list.



FREE SURPRISE WITH EACH LETTER YOU ORDER

GUARANTEE:

Every child on your list must be thrilled with their personalized letter from Santa. Plus their FREE surprise or your full price less postage and handling will be refunded.



JINGLES TO CHILDREN
540 Nepperhan Ave., Suite 200T
Yonkers, N.Y. 10701

YES, please ask Santa to write to the following children on my Christmas list:
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Child's approx. age _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Child's approx. age _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Child's approx. age _____

For each letter, enclose \$2.00 which includes postage, handling and sales tax. This includes 1 free surprise to each child.

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



HEROES

ROLE
PLAYING
GAME

BE PART
OF THE
LEGEND!



Appear regularly in the new DC Heroes role playing adventure series.

Look for:

SEIGE

BLOOD FEUD

WHEEL OF DESTRUCTION

BATMAN SOURCEBOOK

COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON

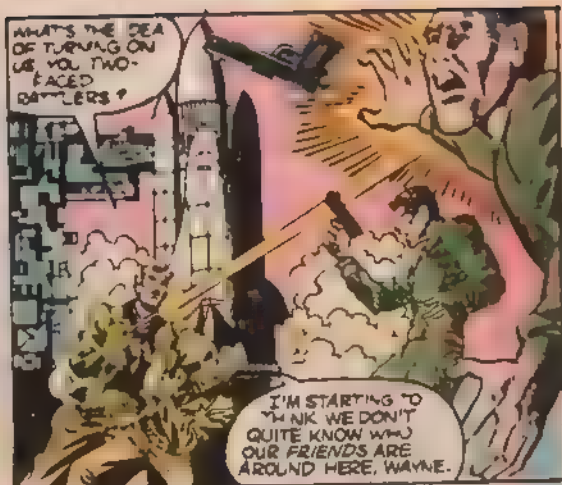
THE DOOMSDAY PROGRAM

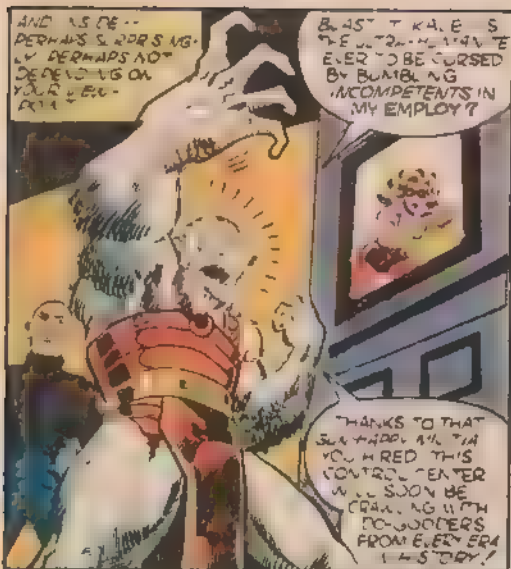
THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF APOKOLIPS™

WILDCARD



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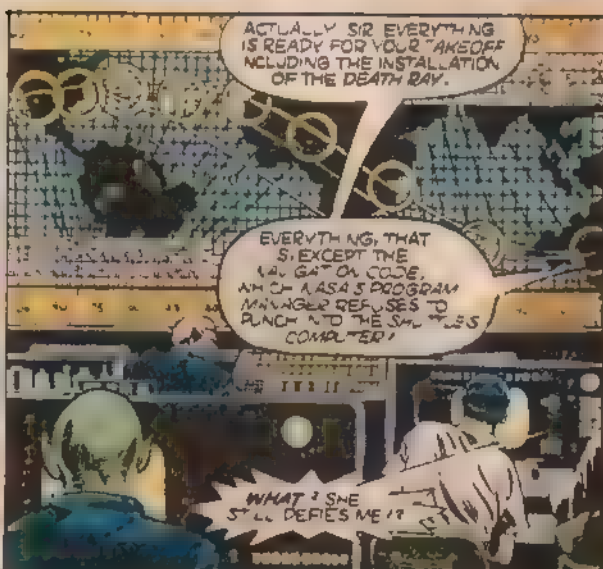




AND AS DE--
PERHAPS S. DOR'S NG-
LY PERHAPS NOT
DEFEAT US ON
YOUR BEH-
FOR

BLAST KALE S
THEY'RE MEANT
EVER TO BE CURSED
BY BOMBING
INCOMPETENTS IN
MY EMPLOY?

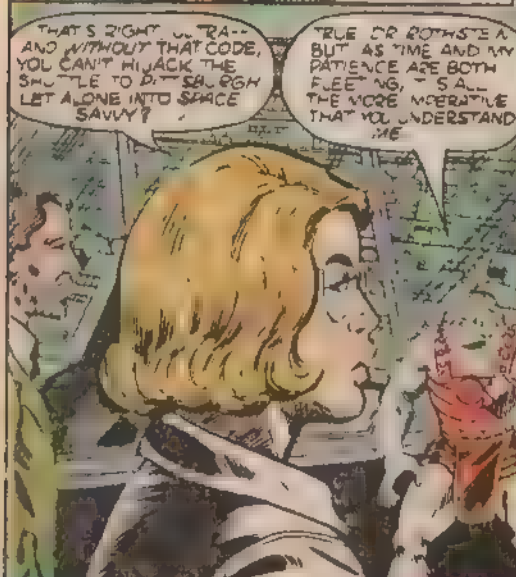
THANKS TO THAT
SUN-HAPPY AIN'T
YOU WRED THIS
CONTROL CENTER
WILL SOON BE
CRASHING WITH
DOZENS FROM EVERY
HISTORY!



ACTUALLY SIR EVERYTHING
IS READY FOR YOUR TAKEOFF
INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION
OF THE DEATH RAY.

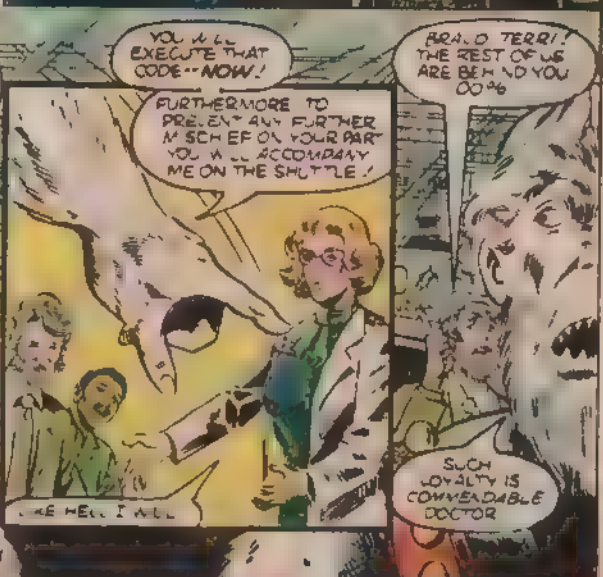
EVERYTHING, THAT
IS EXCEPT THE
LAUNCH CODE.
WHICH ALISA'S PROGRAM
MANAGER REFUSES TO
PUNCH INTO THE SHUTTLES
COMPUTER!

WHAT? SHE
STILL DEFIES ME?



THAT'S RIGHT WARR--
AND WITHOUT THAT CODE,
YOU CAN'T HIJACK THE
SHUTTLE TO DISRUPT
LET ALONE INTO SPACE
SAVVY?

TRUE OR BOTH? A
BUT AS TIME AND MY
PATIENCE ARE BOTH
FLEETING, I'LL
THE MORE IMPERATIVE
THAT YOU UNDERSTAND
ME



YOU WILL
EXECUTE THAT
CODE--NOW!

BRAND TERRI!
THE REST OF US
ARE BEHIND YOU
OOH

FURTHERMORE TO
PREVENT ANY FURTHER
MISCHIEF ON YOUR PART
YOU WILL ACCOMPANY
ME ON THE SHUTTLE!

SUCH
LOYALTY IS
COMMEADABLE
DOCTOR



BUT HIGHLY DANGEROUS!

LET ME GO YOU HAIRY
JAILB! YOU'RE CHOKING
HIM TO DEATH!

HIS DEATH WILL
BE BUT THE FIRST
IN A GRISLY SERIES,
UNLESS YOU PUNCH IN
THAT CODE WOMAN

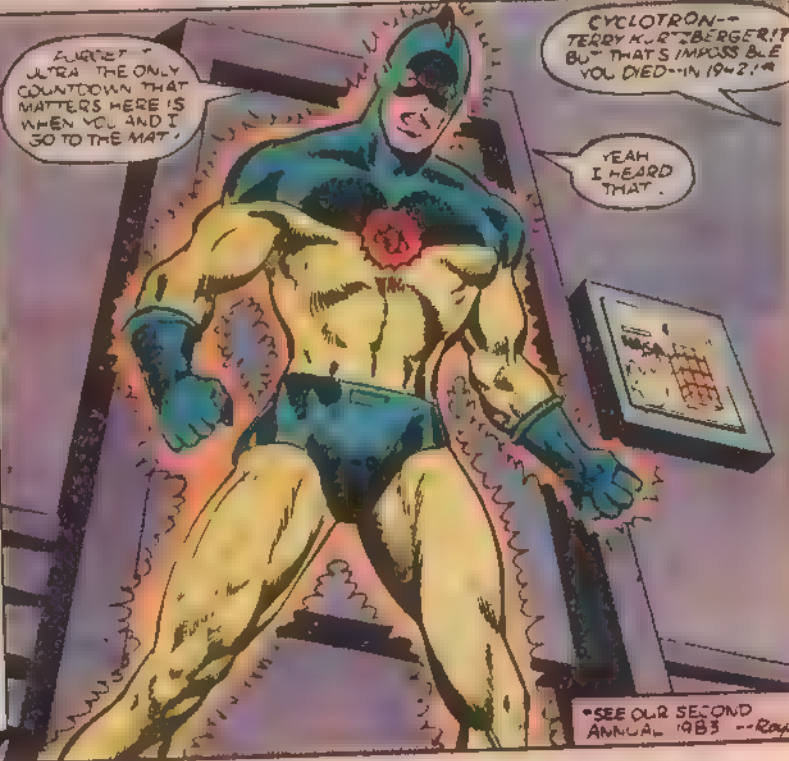
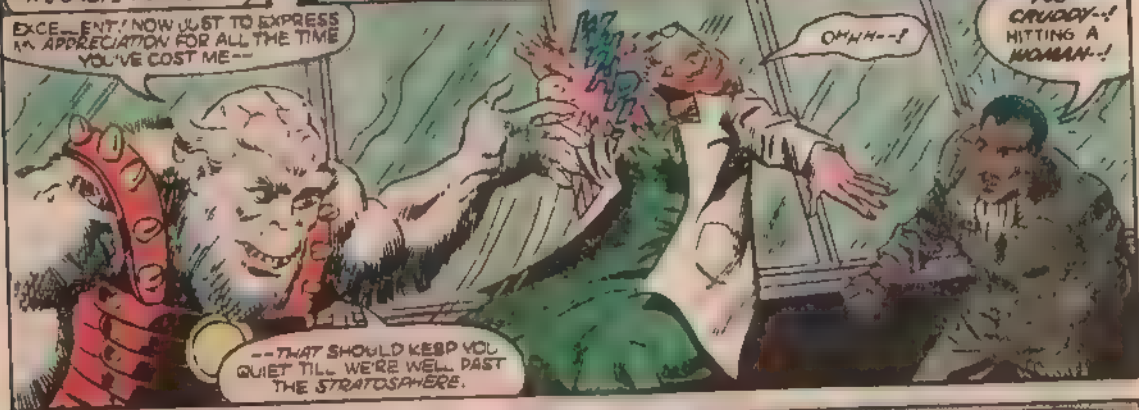
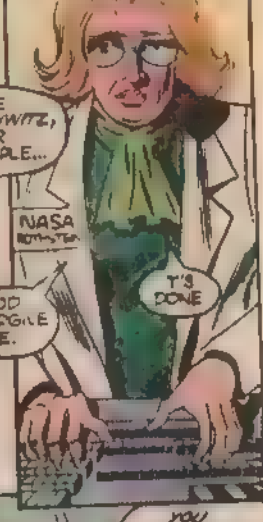


WELL? DO YOU WANT YOUR
FELLOW SCIENTISTS' BLOOD
IN YOUR HANDS??

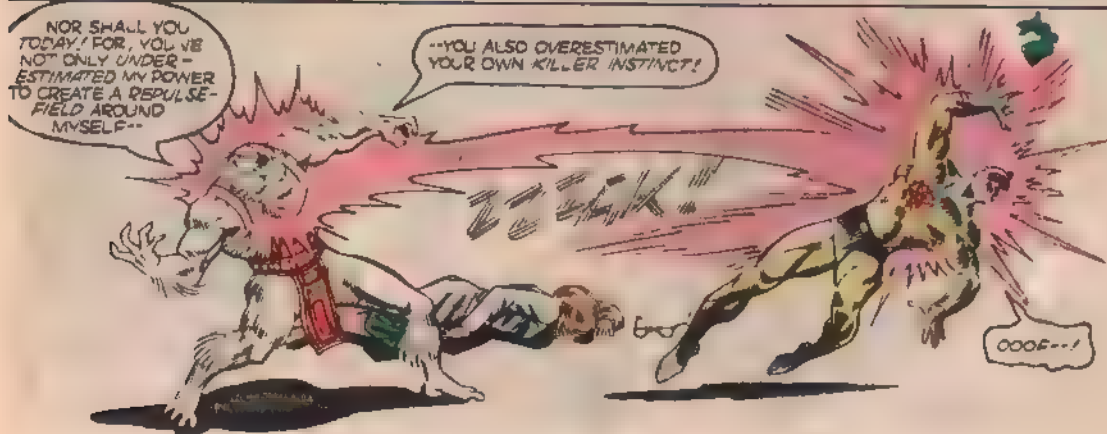
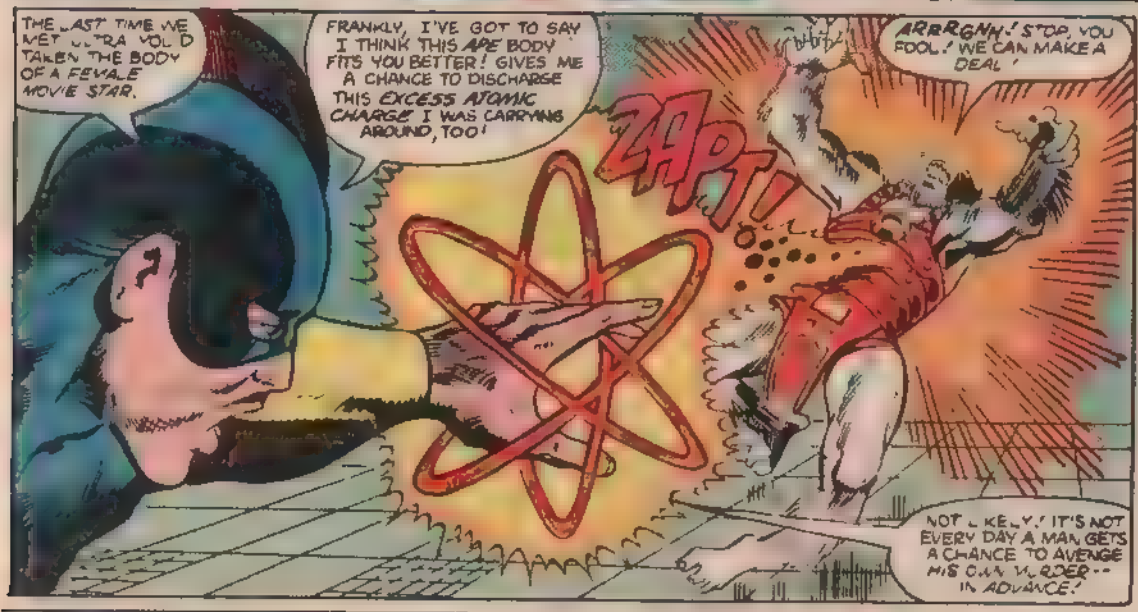
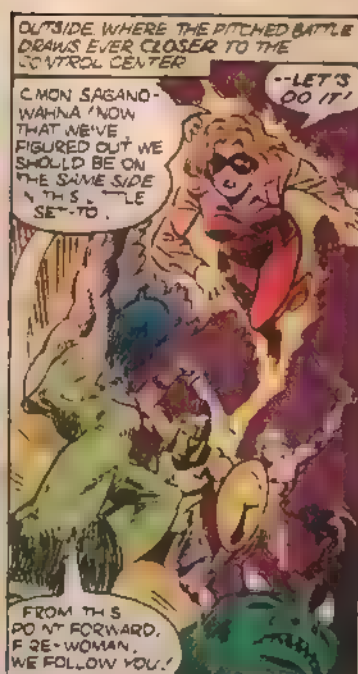
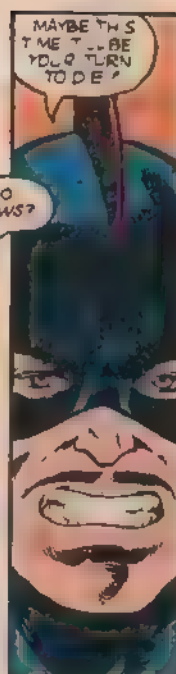
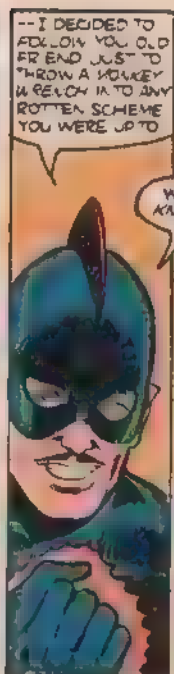
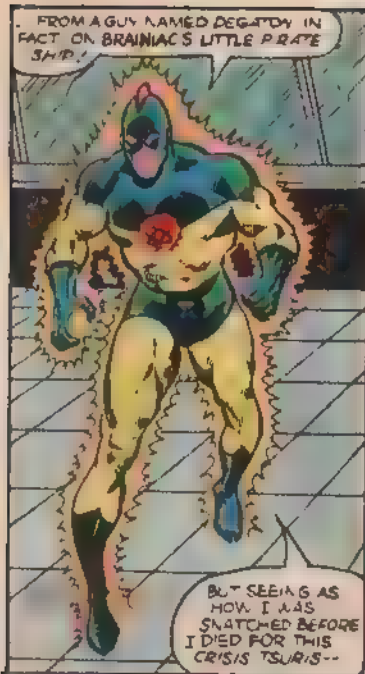
YOU HAVE FIVE
SECONDS TO
ANSWER!

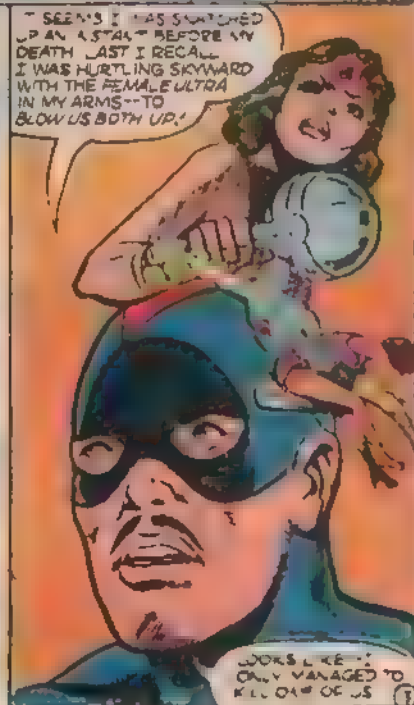
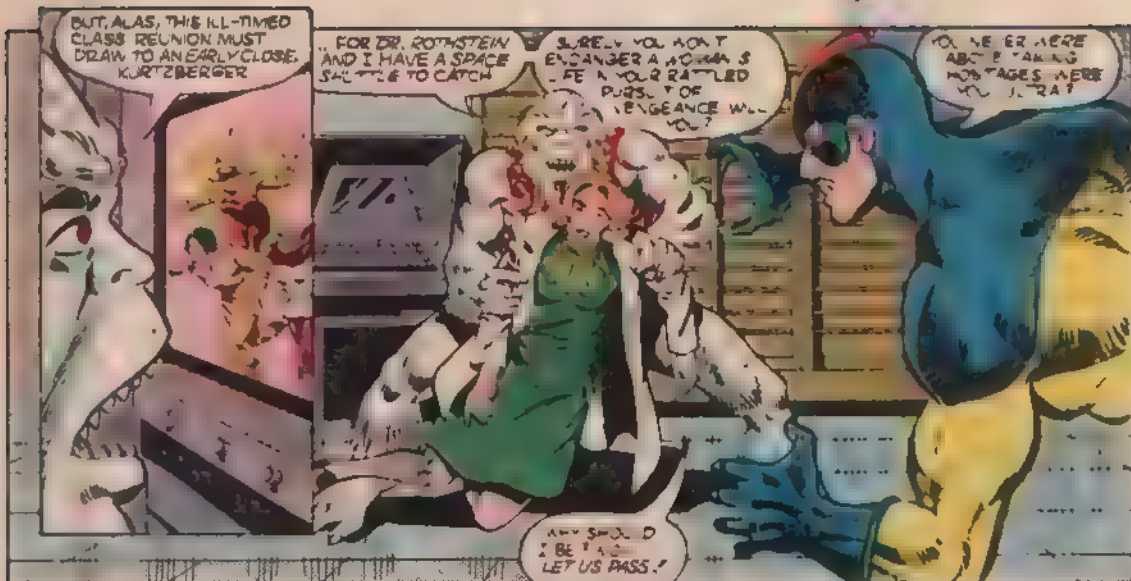


EXCE--ENT! NOW JUST TO EXPRESS AN APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE TIME YOU'VE COST ME--



SEE OUR SECOND ANNUAL 1983 --Rox







I MADE THE ATTEMPT PARTLY TO SAVE MY KID TERRI, BUT I THOUGHT NOTHING WOULD STOP ME THIS TIME.

BUT HE GRABBED UP A WOMAN--A DR. ROTHSTEIN-- AND MADE FOR THAT JOCKEY SHIP, PLANS TO STEAL IT, FOR SOME REASON

ROTHSTEIN? TERRI TO YOU KNOW AND THAT WOMAN IS?



SHE'S-- MY GOODCHILD

AND YOUR DAUGHTER!



WHAT DO YOU SAY?

YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ROTHSTEIN IS HER MARRIED NAME

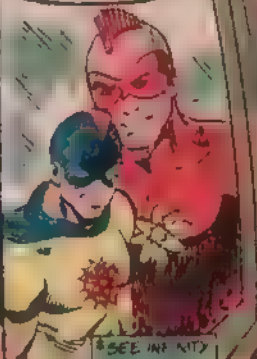


I JUST... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

I DON'T LIKE SHOCKING YOU AT THE MOMENT-- BUT YOU'VE GOT A GRANDSON, TOO--

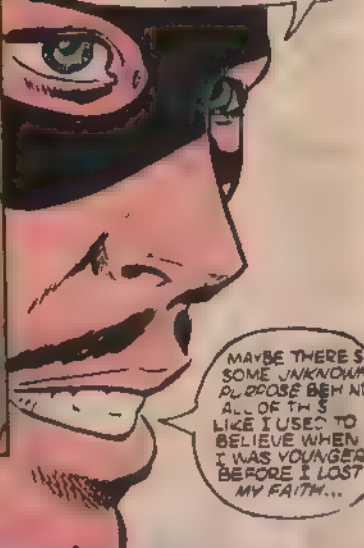
--ALBERT ROTHSTEIN, ALIAS NUKLON. HE INHERITED A VERSION OF YOUR ATOMIC POWERS.

HERE'S A SHOT OF HIM WITH HIS GODFATHER, THE ATOM...

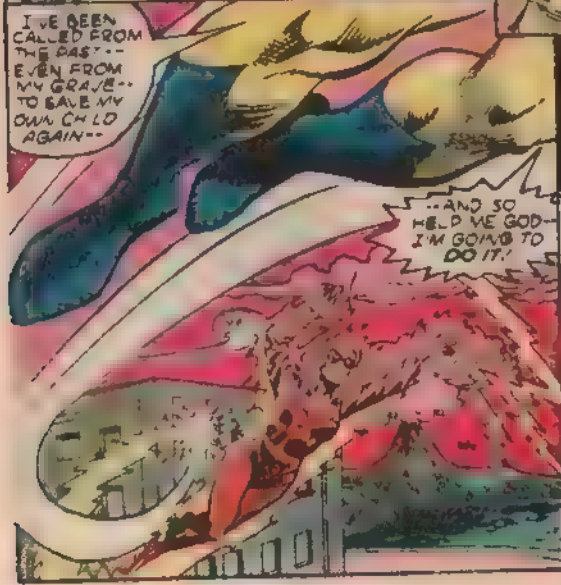


SEE IN MY MIND EVERY MONTH--R.

AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A WEIRD COINCIDENCE THAT MY PATH SHOULD CROSS ULTRA'S AGAIN, MAYBE I WAS WRONG.

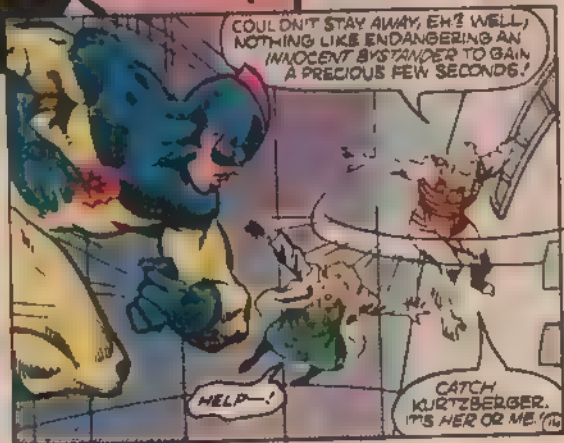


MAYBE THERE'S SOME UNKNOWN PLOROSE BEHIND ALL OF THIS LIKE I USED TO BELIEVE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, BEFORE I LOST MY FAITH...



I'VE BEEN CALLED FROM THE PAST-- EVEN FROM MY GRAVE-- TO SAVE MY OWN CHILD AGAIN--

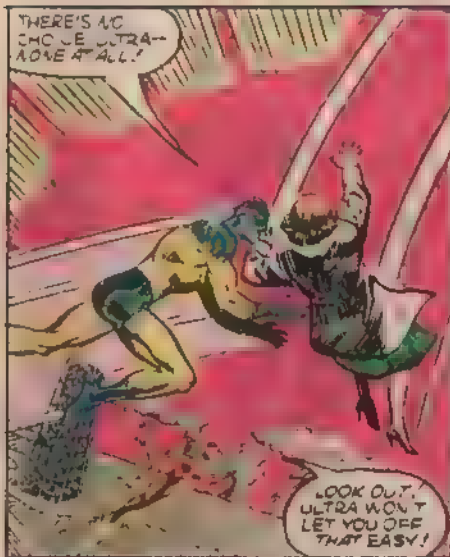
--AND SO HELP ME GOD-- I'M GOING TO DO IT!



COULDN'T STAY AWAY, EH? WELL, NOTHING LIKE ENDANGERING AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER TO GAIN A PRECIOUS FEW SECONDS!

HELP--!

CATCH KURTZBERGER, IT'S HER OR ME!

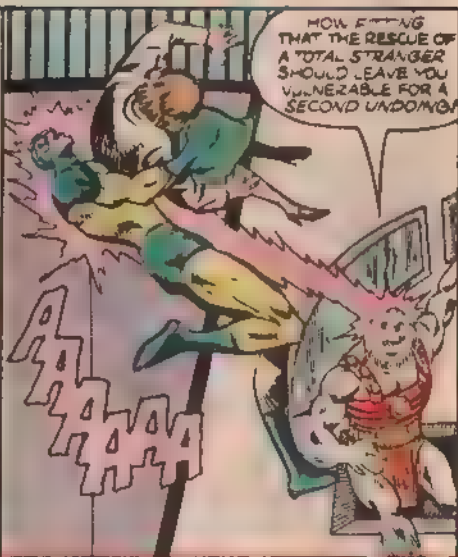


THERE'S NO CHOICE, ULTRA--
NONE AT ALL!

LOOK OUT,
ULTRA WON'T
LET YOU OFF
THAT EASY!



YOU ALWAYS WERE
A SENTIMENTAL
FOOL, CYCLOTRON...



HOW FITTING
THAT THE RESCUE OF
A TOTAL STRANGER
SHOULD LEAVE YOU
VULNERABLE FOR A
SECOND UNDOING!



IF ONLY HE HADN'T
CHARGED AHEAD OF
ME! HE TOOK THE
FULL BRUNT OF
ULTRA'S BRAIN
BLAST--



--AND TURNED
HIS BODY AT LAST
INTO A LIVING
SHIELD FOR THE
DAUGHTER HE
NEVER REALLY
KNEW!



HOLD IT!
HE'S--STILL
ALIVE!



BUT NOW--
I'VE GOT TO
ABSORB ALL
THE HEAT
AND FLAME
OF THIS
ROCKET
BLAST!



TERRY--WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO YOU?

I'M HURT,
DANETTE--
DIEING--
AGAIN!

AND--IT'S AS
IF SOMETHING'S
CALLING ME--
DRAWING ME
BACK TO--

HE'S GONE--
BACK TO THE
MOMENT OF
HIS DEATH!



--OR TERRY'S
DAUGHTER WILL BE
BURNED ALIVE!



FIREBRAND!? I REJOICE
YOU ARE SAFE. THE EVIL ONE
ESCAPED--BUT YOU DID WELL.

OH SURE,
JUST DAVON

EVEN AMID A UNIVERSE IN CRISIS,
THE ULTRA-HUMANITE WAS STRICTLY
OUT FOR HIMSELF--AND HE'LL
PROBABLY CONVERT THAT ROCKET
INTO A WEAPON TO DOMINATE THE
WHOLE EARTH IN THIS ERA!

D-DEATH RAYS
HE'D ALREADY
INSTALLED
THEM! SUCH A
MISHEGOSS!

SAY, I DIDN'T--
YOU'RE FIREBRAND,
AREN'T YOU-- MY
GODMOTHER! HOW
DID YOU--?

LATER, TERRI.
WHAT DID YOU
MEAN ABOUT
THOSE DEATH
RAYS?

OH HE'S GOT THEM, ALL
RIGHT--BROUGHT 'EM
WITH HIM. BUT THAT
NAVIGATION CODE I
PUNCHED IN-- WILL TAKE
HIM STRAIGHT INTO
THE SUN!

WAS IT YOU
WHO CAUGHT
ME? I
VAGUELY RECALL
SOMEONE

HE'S GONE,
TERRI...
FOREVER,
THIS TIME

AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF US
ALL, ARAK, WHEN THE REASON
FOR OUR SUMMONING IS NO
MORE?

WE SHALL NO DOUBT
RETURN TO OUR OWN
TIME, MY LOVE.
TO LIVE OUT OUR LIVES
AND PRAY WE MEET
AGAIN!

DANETTE REILLY LOOKS AT THE RED SKIN'S
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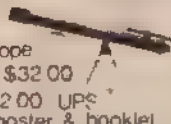


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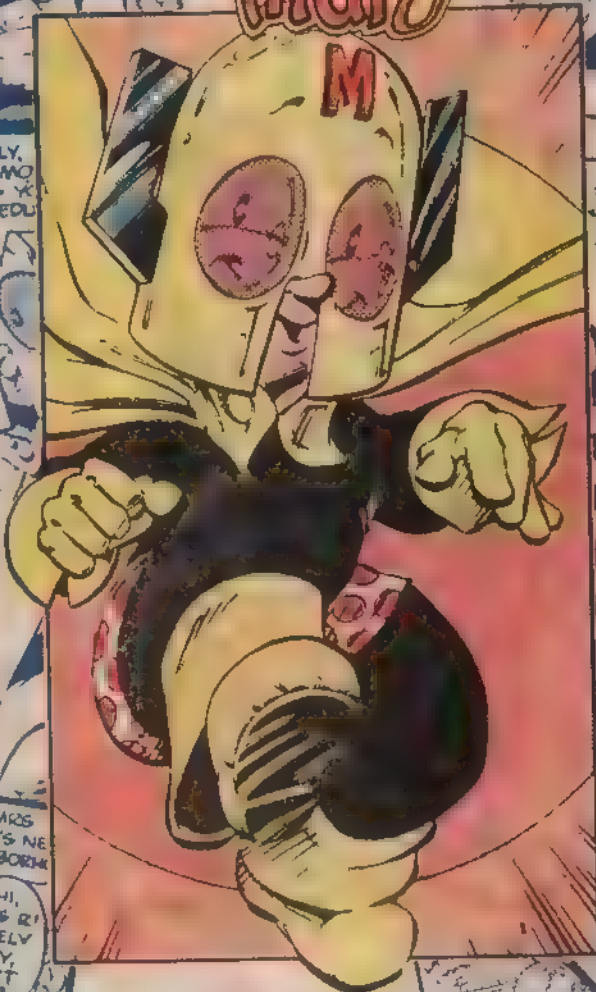
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WORLD, WE ALL
NEED A FRIEND
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ORIGINAL
HERO IN DECADES!

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HELPING BUDDY
STRAGGLE ACROSS
THE STREET!

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SEÑORA TIRADO.

BUENO BUENO
SHE EAT ALL HER
FARINA TODAY

HOW'S LITTLE
HELENITA TODAY?

HERE, BILLY,
DEPOSIT MO
TOWARDS YR
COLLEGE EDU

IT'S
OC-CU-
PIED!

GO
YOU'RE PLAYING
WATCHMAN,
EH?

OH THAT'S MRS
RIVERA, SHE'S NE
TO THE NEIGHBORH

HI, MRS R!
LOVELY DAY,
ISN'T IT?

NUM-NUM-NUM

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

OH LIL I
WANTED TO SAIDE
LID THE RAILING

**"SHANGHAIED INTO
HYPERSPACE!"
INTERLUDE TWO**

ONE OR LESS MEN WHILE A CLEAVING
ROCKET OF A TYPE UNKNOWN ON EARTH
1. 942--OR SPACE--MUTLES THROUGH
THE SPACE BETWEEN THE SAKES TO
SOLE AND MOST UNWILLING PASSENGER?
THE

WINDMAN

ITS DESTINATION?

URANUS THE
READINGS SAY?
BUT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE --
ISN'T IT?

LAST THING I
RECALL I WAS GETTING
DROASBY AT A USA
MEETING-- AND
NOW THIS !!

THIS CHAPTER BASED ON
THE '62 ORIGINAL BY
GARDNER F. FOX &
CLIFF YOUNG WRITTEN BY
TIM BURGARD

COURTESY OF SOME NAZ SPES US NG MEANS
FURNISHED BY THE LATE MONITOR OF CR S S
FAME,
--R.

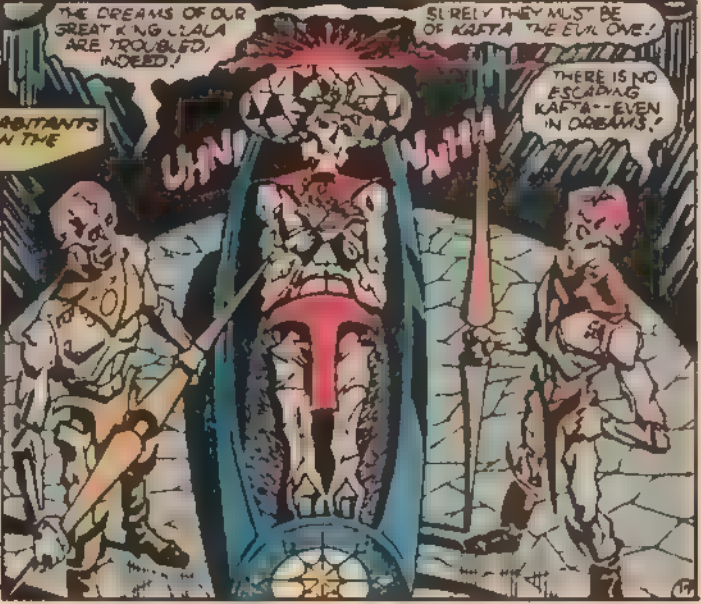
ON THE GREAT FROZEN PLAINS OF
THIS HUGE ALTERNATE URBANUS,
WHICH OBEYS LAWS OF PHYSICS
DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN, STANDS
A SINGLE ANGRY CITY

HOW ARE ITS CRYSTALLINE INHABITANTS
MORE FAMILIAR TO OUR EYES THAN THE
FRIGID LANDSCAPE ITSELF

THE DREAMS OF OUR
GREAT KING LALA
ARE TROUBLED,
INDEED!

SURELY THEY MUST BE
OF KRAFTA THE EVIL ONE.

THERE IS NO
ESCAPING
KAFTA--EVEN
IN DREAMS.



AND MADE IN THAT
THING--RECALL THAT
WE AND OURS--THE
WORLD OF DREAMS--
WANDERS THE MARCH
TALE ULALA

SO COLD
SO BARREN OF
WARM MEMORIES
LIKE SUCH AS
MY ANCESTORS
KNEW IN EONS
PAST!

HERE BLOOMS
NO SENSATION--
HERE SOAMS NO
MAN OR BEAST--
NIGHT SAVE
ICE!

END WHAT
SOUND'S
THAT?

A COMET-
SPEED VS
TOWARD
ME!

WHAT CAN
I DO?

KRABOOOM

IT MISSED
ME--BY
DECIMETERS!

DOES KRAFT
TRY TO SAY ME
AS HE DOES MY
WRETCHED
SUBJECTS?

WHAT? THESE
THINGS SOMETHING
TELLS ME THEY ARE
CALLED--FLOWERS!

I HAVE NEVER
SEEN THEM BUT
HAVE HEARD OF
THEM--THIS NOISE
MUST BE A GREAT
BLESSING FOR
ME!

AND NOW, AS ULALA WAKES IN EARNEST

ONE
MAJESTY

ALL THE REAL ASTROLOGHER
I WOULD LEARN THE MEANING
OF MY STRANGE DREAM!

WE HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR SKY-BORN BLESSING, O KING! BEHOLD!

BY THE GREAT CRYSTAL
TIS NO COMET AT ALL--
BUT A CRAFT MADE BY
SOME SENTIENT BEING

AND IT CRASHES
UPON OUR PLANE!

MOMENTS LATER, AS WES DODDS THROWS OPEN THE DOOR OF THE ERRANT VESSEL

CAN'T BREATHE
AND SO COLD!

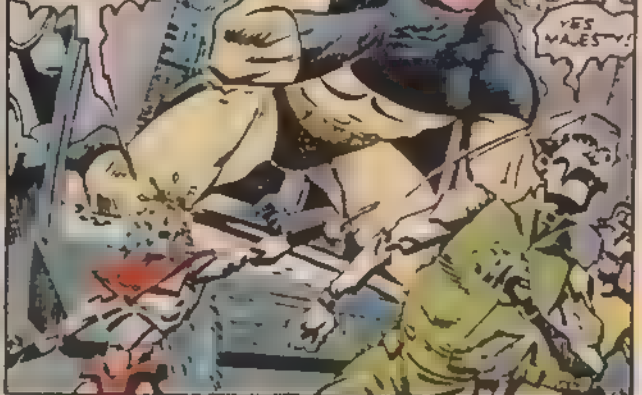
GUESS THIS
IS THE
END!



THIS CREATURE
KILLED ALL THE
OUR VERY BLOODED
ANCESTORS

BRING THE ANCIENT
CAT-GO-TANK!
PERHAPS HE
CAN USE IT!

YES
MAESTRO!



THAT'S WHEN THE SUN
WAS EYES OPEN AGAIN

GREAT
DAY IN
THE
MORNING!



WHERE
AM I??

GREETINGS BEING FROM ANOTHER
WORLD, I AM ULALA, SOVEREIGN
OF THIS PLANET.



HEY—I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU
I'M DREAMING ALL THIS, RIGHT?
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL IRONY!

YOU ARE NOT DREAMING I AM PURE
BRAIN ENCASED IN A CRYSTAL BODY,
AND THAT BRAIN CAN EASILY
UNDERSTAND YOURS



ARE YOU THE BLESSING I SOUGHT--
THE ONE WHO WILL DELIVER US
FROM KRAFT, THE EVIL ONE?

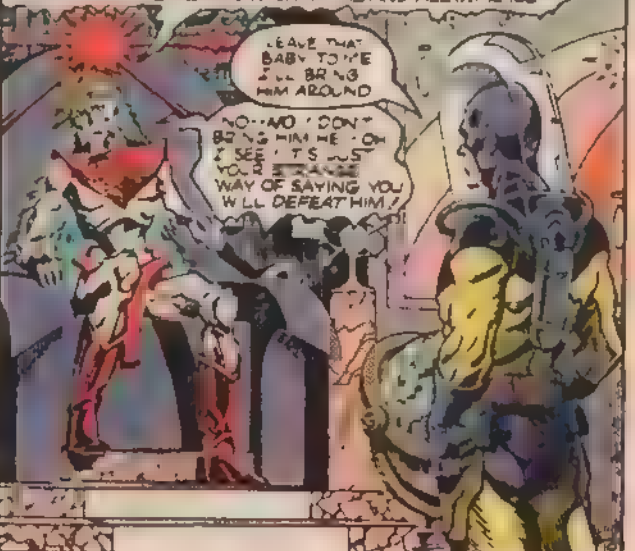
A BAD GUY HUN? TELL ME ALL ABOUT M



KRAFT HAS
INVENTED A GAS
THAT DESTROYS
THE CRYSTAL
FORMATION OF
OUR BODIES

OUR BRAINS FEED
ON THE ENERGY
OF THE CRYSTALS.
WITHOUT THEM
WE DIE

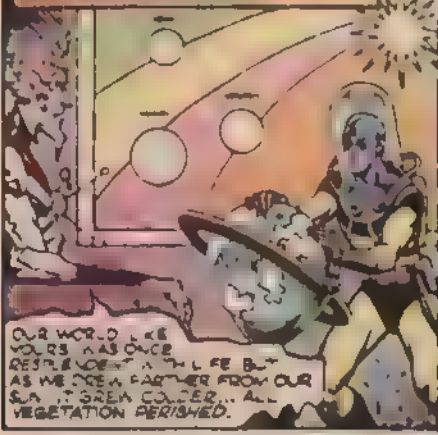
KRAFT DEMANDS TO BE TOLD I HAVE REFUSED, AND NOW HE
THREATENS THE DESTRUCTION OF ME AND ALL MY RACE



LEAVE THAT
BABY TO ME
I'LL BRING
HIM AROUND

NO--NO I DON'T
BRING HIM HERE--ON
I SEE IT'S JUST
YOUR STRANGE
WAY OF SAYING YOU
WILL DEFEAT HIM!

QUICKLY THE SAILMAN LEADS THE
SIX BEST MASTERS OF THIS MYSTER-
THERMIONIC URANUS



OUR WORLD LIKE
YOURS WAS ONCE
RESPLENDENT IN THE LIFE BUT
AS WE DREW FARTHER FROM OUR
SUN IT GREW COLDER... AND
VEGETATION PERISHED.

"OUR DESPERATE FOREFATHERS AT LAST
DISCOVERED A WAY TO FEED THE BRAIN
BY ENERGY FROM CRYSTAL... AND NEED
NO AIR, AS YOU DO.



NOW... WILL
YOU HELP US
AGAINST
KARTA?



IF YOU KNEW THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY... WOULD YOU
WOULD HAVE TO ASK?



KARTA LIVES SOUTH
OF HERE IN AN
ANCIENT SEA-
BOTTOM. CAN YOU
REALLY HELP FREE
US FROM HIS
OPPRESSION?

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT
WHAT WON'T WE? I
WANT TO DO YOU USE
FOR TRANSPORTATION
IN THIS BURG?

SOON THE SAILMAN HUNG CABLES ON
FAST TO THE CONTROLS OF THE "LIBERATION"
FLYING CRAFT



MAY THE GREAT
CRYSTAL BE WITH
YOU MAN OF
SAVO.

AND MAY YOU
NEVER WANDER
AS SOMEBODY'S
GLASS GOBLIN!



SURE DON'T
TAKE ME LONG
TO FIND SOME
ACTION DID IT?

THOSE GASES DOWN
THERE--EATING AWAY
AT A COUPLE OF
CRYSTAL PEOPLE
ON THE GREAT
PLAIN--



LORD--THOSE
WEIRD SCREAMS
OF THE SILL
PROBABLY
HAIN'T BE
THE REST
OF MY LIFE
I...

"MOODS" AS I WAS SWOOPING
AROUND TO TRY AND HELP THEM,
LOST SOME OF THE SAND I ALWAYS
"ARRY AROUND AS MY CALLING-
CARD"

NOT THAT
I CAN'T
SHARE IT!



NOW--THE SANDS OF
ABSORBING THE
GASES SIDE

THE SILLIARD
THE SAND
MUST REACH
ON THE GAS
WHATEVER
IT IS!

WE
ARE
SAVED!

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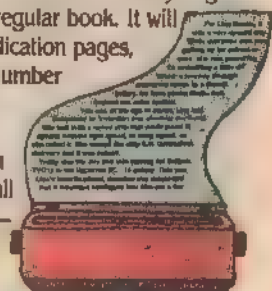
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GUEST

MEANWHILE

No, I saw some friends and I were discussing immigration laws, illegal aliens, and bilingual education. To me, it's a long story short, our discussion highlighted the point that our country wouldn't be what it is today without the continual influx of new nationalities and cultures. It is how our nation started, how we've prospered, and, to some extent, why we've suffered and continue to suffer many of our conflicts. What the heck does this have to do with comics? For this writer, plenty.



Comics, as a form of popular culture, encapsulate the norms and ideals of society. They show us what our culture defines as good and bad. Comics are entertaining, in part, because they use easily recognizable symbols to act out conflicts we fear and because they affirm the existing values of society. This is why they've endured. In addition to reflecting societal norms, they are also a powerful part of the socialization process. Children and immigrants can learn the values of their society through mass media, especially through comics.



Not long after my parents immigrated from China to a small rural town in central California, I was born. I grew up on a farm surrounded

by two sets of grandparents, assorted animals, the Chinese language (which I can barely understand, let alone speak), and all the rice I could eat. None of our neighbors were Chinese. Our family wasn't always familiar with American ways, nor were we considered American by many, despite the fact that we were American citizens. As Bruce Springsteen was quoted as saying, "I was on the outside, looking in."



Somehow, kids bridge the sociological gap adults can't seem to cross. My parents, until somewhat recently, only socialized with other Chinese. I, however, grew up with non-Chinese playmates. I never gave much thought to the fact that they weren't Chinese. A boy with red hair and freckles (looked kind of like Jimmy Olsen) became my best friend. Our favorite show was Batman. A boy of Scotch-Irish descent spent summers devouring comics alongside me. Comics helped form a bond between us that has lasted over twenty years.



I never really thought about the fact that Superman, Batman, Robin, or Wonder Woman weren't Chinese. In fact, I never really thought about nationality at all. Comics had the kind of universal appeal which

transcended the arbitrary, artificial, and ultimately limiting definitions people put on each other. The values these characters held, what the stories taught, were values held in esteem in many other cultures. Superman is a hero, not because of his powers but because of how he uses those powers. He cares for people. That is an attribute people of all ethnic backgrounds recognize as good.



Comics helped educate me. They launched my imagination and gave me my basic drawing skill. Reading comics helped my facility with English; not an easy task when Chinese was the household language. The culmination of this was not my master's degree in business but the Superman story I plotted and did the layouts for in ACTION COMICS #569. Imagine! A child of Chinese immigrants absorbing the major cultural idioms well enough to write a story starring an American institution.



There's a comic book store near San Francisco's Chinatown I occasionally frequent. Kids—black, white, and Asian—use the store to support their comic book habit. In them, I see both ghosts of my past and heralds of the future. Despite their disparate cultural backgrounds, they talk comics like they were siblings. As well they should, for they are all siblings under the skin. Comics have helped them to see that America is and probably always will be a melting pot. And comics are an important ingredient in that pot.

Dennis Yee
Lafayette, California



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LIST

- ☐ Tales of the Legion 333: The five lost Legionnaires must destroy a world, but at what price?
- ☐ Action Comics 577: Kattib can kill with a touch, so how does Superman stop him?
- ☐ Detective Comics 560: Batman and Robin tackle crime in Gotham, plus Green Arrow!
- ☐ All-Star Squadron 55: Firebrand and DC's greatest western heroes in all out action! Crisis tie-in!

- ☐ V™ 14: Prince Bron becomes a pawn that may spell the end to the Resistance!
- ☐ Deadman 1: An all-new mini-series with art by Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez!
- ☐ Oz-Wonderland Wars 3: In the final issue, the war comes to a surprising end for the participants!
- ☐ DC Challenge 5: Across the multiverse, Captain Marvel, Uncle Sam, Thunderbolt, Adam Strange, and many more!

MINUTES LATER WHEN OUR
ERRANT CRIMEBLASTER HAS
BEEN LED ONLY 1/2 MILE TO
THE NEAREST WOULD BE
DICTATOR'S HEADQUARTERS

A TENSEST AS
BUT A FEW SECONDS
GOT A FEW SECONDS
AL MOONED ON
SCOTT'S HIS LITTLE
DEATH CAR

AL E... WHERE, ER
EARTH... WHERE, ER
S FROM HERE A... FEAR ON
BOTH SIDES HAS PRESENTED
S BEING USED IN THE
WAR—SO FAR.

THIS LEAVES SANDY WON'T HOLD ME MUCH LONGER IF SHE DENTLY NOT SURE DATE DION OF LOVE OURS

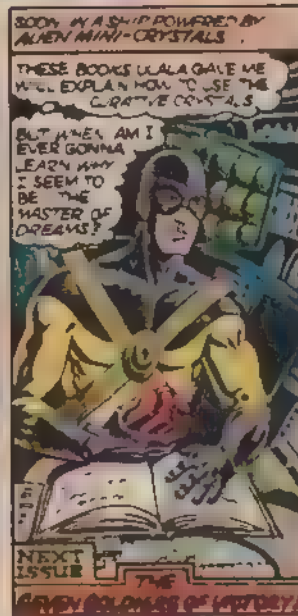
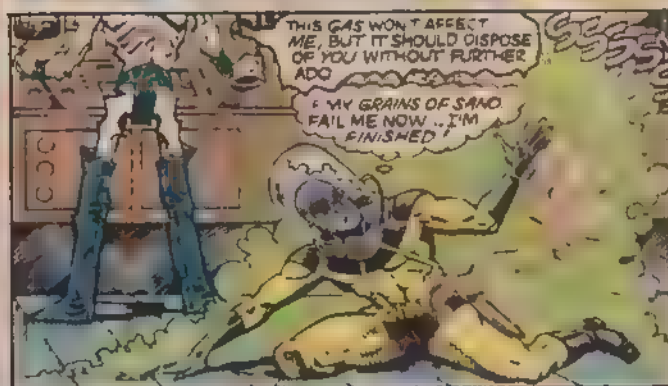
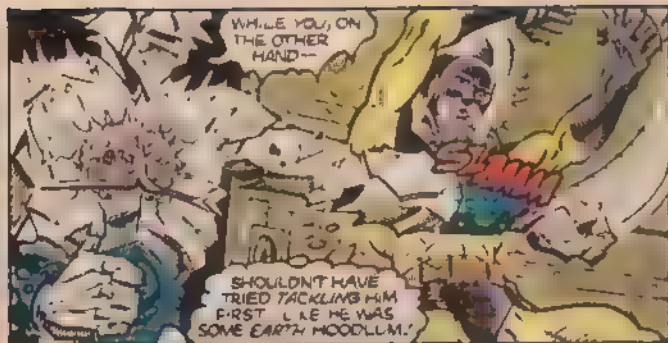
HOPE I'VE GOT PLENTY OF MY HONEYMOON VARIETY ALONG

A comic book panel showing Batman in a dynamic, crouching pose. He is wearing his iconic black and grey suit with a yellow bat emblem on the chest. He is surrounded by a chaotic scene of red and orange crystalline structures, resembling a shower of crystal shards. A speech bubble at the top left contains the text: "SURPRISE PARTY FOLKS--" and "--AND IT'S GONNA BE A CRYSTAL SHOWER, RIGHT?". The background is a mix of red, orange, and yellow, suggesting a fiery or explosive environment. The style is classic comic book art with bold lines and a limited color palette.

GUESS SOME BRANDS OF
 HELMETS ARE BETTER THAN OTHERS.

GUESS I'LL JUST
 HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE.

WHO ARE YOU??



NEXT ISSUE THE GRAY ROBOTS OF MISTERY



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WHO'S WHO AT THE DC BARBECUE:

Thought we'd wait till this issue to run down the list of sources for the time-tossed heroes who helped out Firebrand this time around. The first four stalwarts below first appeared in ALL-STAR WESTERN #58, 1951, which in truth *should* have been the 58th issue of ALL-STAR COMICS, except that the latter Golden-Age mag had run its course. In tribute to the western comic that continued the ALL-STAR name for several years, each of the four features in that issue appears in this special story.

(1) **THE TRIGGER TWINS** (Walt and Wayne): Walt was the sheriff of Rocky City, but he was always getting into trouble over his head, and that's when his storekeeper twin Wayne would don identical buckskins and get him out of a jam. Walt always wanted Wayne to share the spotlight, but Wayne basically wanted a peaceable life—which of course he never got.

(2) **THE ROVING RANGER** (Jeff Graham): "The Texas Tornado," he was called, a Lone Star lawman who fought for justice on his great steed Fury.

(3) **DON CABALLERO**: Handsome, gallant swordsman of old (Spanish) California, with the shining blade he called El Capitan.

(4) **STRONG BOW**: He came "from beyond the Misty Mountains," and was the last of his unnamed tribe, in a day before most Indians had had contact with Europeans—but after Indians had domesticated the horse. You figure it out.

(5) **THE SILENT KNIGHT**: He and the next three heroes originated in **THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD** #1, 1955. A young but apt medieval lad named Brian donned a strange white-and-red armor he found in the Forest Perilous, and fought evil as The Silent Knight—since he didn't want to speak, lest his voice give his identity away. It's a problem that hasn't much bothered masked heroes from Superman onward.

(6) **THE VIKING PRINCE**: Jon was pulled from the sea by a Viking village, with no memory of his actual identity or origin. Not that that stopped him from having adventure after adventure.

(7) **THE GOLDEN GLADIATOR**: Marcus was a shepherd youth who, falsely accused of attacking a Roman praetor, was eventually condemned to the arena. Conquering there, he won his freedom, a helmet of pure gold—and the title of Golden Gladiator.

(8) **MISS LIBERTY** debuted in **TOMAHAWK** #88, 1963. In reality she was the mild-mannered "nurse" Bess Lynn, in a

Revolutionary War period a full century before Florence Nightingale more or less invented the concept. That didn't stop Miss Liberty from being an ancestress of Liberty Belle, though, as shown in ALL-STAR SQUADRON #45.

(9) **THE BLACK PIRATE**: Jon Valor first appeared in **ACTION** #23, 1940. He and his son Justin donned masks to act as protectors of the English seaways.

(10) **SUPER-CHIEF** made his dramatic entrance in ALL-STAR WESTERN #117, 1961. Manitou, the Great Spirit, seems to have selected Flying Stag, greatest warrior of the Wolf Clan, to gain his powers—or was it the radiation of that fallen meteor, a piece of which he forever after wore as an amulet when he lived a secret life as Saganowahna—Super Chief!

(11) **ARAK** and **VALDA** were, of course, the stars of **ARAK, SON OF THUNDER**, a DC Comic I co-created and wrote from 1981-1985. They're dear to my heart, and I hope this isn't their last appearance.

Whew! Between all the above and the World War Two setting of ALL-STAR SQUADRON, maybe I should've gone into history teaching, after all! Or then again—maybe I *did*, and just never realized it!

—Roy Thomas

Dear Roy,

On July 13, 1985, I purchased three DC comics in which you were involved—ALL-STAR SQUADRON #50, INFINITY, INC. #19, and JUSTICE LEAGUE #244. I enjoyed them so thoroughly I had to write and thank you.

What I find amazing about your work is that you take "old" Earth-Two characters such as the JSA and the All-Stars and make them fresh and exciting. Even though these heroes have been around for nearly half a century, they are mostly new to me, and I always find learning about "new" heroes and villains exciting. Yet even as I learn about these "new" characters, your stories always point out the history and tradition in which they are grounded.

A perfect example of your marvelous storytelling is the opening chapter of ALL-STAR SQUADRON #50. Using a 1942 story as a framework, you allow us to see the "old" characters (which are "new" ones to me and other younger readers) in action, and we also get a clearer explanation and ingenious adaptation of past DC tales. In short, your presentation of "retroactive continuity" allows us fans to enjoy both the

older and newer trends in comic books.

Being a master of continuity, you were able to handle the ALL-STAR/CRISIS Crossover with great ease and great success. The appearance of Harbinger was used effectively to create five separate story lines:

(1) The rocketing of eight members of the Justice Battalion into hyper-space;

(2) The transfer of more (Quality) heroes to Earth-X to join the Freedom Fighters;

(3) The shifting of Liberty Belle, Johnny Quick, and the Green Lantern to some as-yet-undetermined parallel earth;

(4) The actions of the remaining All-Stars in combating the effects of the Crisis;

(5) The shifting of Commander Steel to Earth-One.

As we learn in INFINITY #19 and JLA #244, Commander Steel was directly responsible for the formation of the new (and not necessarily improved) Justice League. By writing both the past and present history of the Earth-Two characters, you prepare not only two explosive and well-written stories, but you also present the definitive history of an

entire world.

In short, I find you to be the best writer in the entire comic-book industry. Your tightly-plotted stories and interwoven ALL-STAR/INFINITY continuity give the fans the most interesting set of heroes anywhere. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors, and I want you to know you will always have at least one die-hard fan.

I also congratulate you on being the first DC writer to make any major changes outside the actual issues of CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS.

Steve Granite
(No Address on Letter)

We're the ones who should say "Thanks," Steve, for an almost embarrassing shower of accolades. I don't think there is any one "best writer in the entire comic-book industry," and hasn't been since Stan Lee mostly hung up his typewriter some years back. Still, if you think I'm gonna argue with you...

Don't neglect, though, giving due credit to various artists involved (Arvell Jones, Mike Clark, and inkers Collette and DeZuniga in ALL-STAR SQUADRON, for instance), as well as the JLA

part of the team, especially writer Gerry Conway and editor Alan Gold.

As for your other comments—naturally, the things you say I've accomplished are, by and large, the very thing I went to accomplish, and I'm glad so many readers feel things have worked out that well. And of course I hope that, when a third "retroactive continuity" title debuts in a few weeks—**SECRET ORIGINS #1**—you'll be right there to cheer that one on, as well! We can use you!

—R.T.

Dear Roy,

I've been a great fan of Earth-Two for almost as long as I've been a comics fan. There's always been a special place in my heart for those wonderful heroes across the vibratory barrier, and there always will be. **ALL-STAR SQUADRON #50**, however, was a very big letdown.

Obviously, you intended this issue to be a milestone, a turning point from which to launch the heroes in new and exciting directions. However, I really think you disposed of the old subplots in a highly anticlimactic and hurried way. You have spent months, even years, building up to the resolution of these plot lines, but in issue #50 you wrapped up every single one in a few panels, leaving me disappointed.

Each event was indeed a crisis for members of the Squadron: the exile of the JSA into hyperspace; the final fate of Commander Steel; the long-awaited wedding of Johnny Quick and Liberty Belle; and the final departure of the Freedom Fighters for Earth-X. However, I would have enjoyed each one so much more if they had all been given more space.

I especially expected more of the Freedom Fighters after that truly wonderful five-parter (#31-35) you did to introduce them. I did like the double-page spread showing the F.F. crossing the void to Earth-X, though, and I liked the way you included all the Quality heroes (that I know of) as members of the group, instead of the traditional six (Uncle Sam, Phantom Lady, Doll Man, Black Condor, The Ray, and Human Bomb). I never thought of Plastic Man or the Blackhawks as F.F.s against, but it's really only logical.

Anyway, happy fifteenth, **ALL-STAR SQUADRON**, and may you see many, many more!

Robert T. Jeschonek
129 Hostetter Rd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

I second that, Robert. And I'm especially glad that, though I wanted to print your letter as one of only a couple of this LP, it was actually one of only a couple of basically unfavorable letters on **ALL-STAR SQUADRON #50**, with the vast majority of your fellow readers applauding both the issue itself and the new directions in which it obviously pointed.

Sorry I felt I had to sandwich so much into the pages of issue #50, but I really wanted to tie up those particular loose

ends all at one time, so that **ALL-STAR SQUADRON** could move on to other things, concentrating on the two or three dozen DC heroes whose names I've got taped on my bulletin board. That's what turning points are all about, right?

That doesn't mean, actually, that the Freedom Fighters couldn't appear again in the mag—but if they do, it will all be as Earth-Xers. Matter of fact, if I could find the time, I'd love to do some WWII adventures of Uncle Sam and company, or see someone else do it. They just won't be back on Earth-Two, that's all—even though Earth-Two will continue to exist in 1942 despite its being wiped out retroactively from 1985-86 backward (as you've no doubt seen by now in **CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS**).

Several readers besides yourself bemoaned the banishing of the Freedom Fighters from these pages, and I understand (and to some extent share) their sense of loss. However, I feel the real mistake was my including them in the first place, even with the tacit approval

of original editor Len Wein, creator of Earth-X.

I'd wanted to get another woman in the group (Phantom Lady) and I have a special fondness for Plastic Man, Doll Man, and the Blackhawks—that one was reason for their inclusion. The other was that many Quality stories, being published after 1945, didn't fit well with the concept of their originating on an earth on which World War Two ended years later—and with the Allies' defeat by the Axis, to boot!

In retrospect, though, I feel I should have left well enough alone. (And since I suspect that the vagaries of **CRISIS** and its own retroactive effect on continuity are what caused the JLA not to remember the Freedom Fighters when they first encountered them years ago, I figure that's that.)

Meanwhile, to learn how Earth-Two can continue to exist in 1942 even after the events in **CRISIS**, don't miss the upcoming **JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA GRAPHIC NOVEL**, slated for publication in the next few months!

—R.T.

SPECIAL JSA NOTE: Maybe it's a little late (because of an earlier truncated letters section), but we thought that, before it got even later, we should acknowledge the handful of errors and omissions that slipped into 1985's **AMERICA VS. THE JUSTICE SOCIETY** mini-series. Without further ado, here we go:

(1) Robin the Boy Wonder made his debut in **DETECTIVE COMICS #38**, not **BATMAN #1**, as we wrote in one place.

(2) The word "the" being left out of the final caption on p. 19, panel 1, of issue #1 made it look as if Plastic Man and other Freedom Fighters shown were JSA members, which of course they never were.

(3) Various panels in #1-2 gave The Wizard visible eyeballs, which he didn't have in the more authentic shots.

(4) We never did figure out how to color Vandal Savage's hair. It was brown in early comics, black starting in the 1960's. You pay your money and you take your choice.

(5) The word "or" in the expression "or DIE!" got left off The Spectre's balloon on the cover of #2—but that was a printer's error, not ours. (It got printed in the ads, though.)

(6) Several panels in #2 accidentally featured Dr. Fate in the full Helmet of Nabu, which actually he lost after **ALL-STAR COMICS #7**, 1941, and never regained until the 1980's. For you completists out there, the panels were on pp. 17, 24, 25, and 28.

(7) That 28th page of #2 had a couple of other errors, as well: the Hourman instead of Starman pictured as a JSAer when the group disbanded just after Pearl Harbor—and the Sandman being left out of the panel at the bottom of the page.

(8) In a footnote in #1, I said that The Sandman's real name was Wes Dodd, not Wes Dodds. Actually, "Dodd" was used first, but "Dodds" became the preferred spelling over the years.

(9) Not exactly an error, but we failed to give as much info as we should have on our back covers, all of which were, of course front covers of issues of **ALL-STAR COMICS**. The covers of **ALL-STAR #3** and #4 were originally by Everett E. Hibbard (though the Hawkman on #4 was a Shelly Moldoff swipe or paste-up); that of #5 was by the late Howard Purcell; and that of #54 by Arthur F. Peddy (pencil) and Bernard Sachs (inks). Number 4-5's covers were lovingly traced and rendered by Detroit artist AJ Dellings.

Hope these minor omissions didn't concern you overmuch—but now that we look back on it, that's not really too many mistakes for 160 pages (counting covers), is it?

One final wish: that **AMERICA VS. THE JUSTICE SOCIETY** is a big enough success that DC invites me to do more with my all-time favorite super-hero group after the upcoming graphic novel. Anybody share that hope? Let them and me know, okay?

—R.T.





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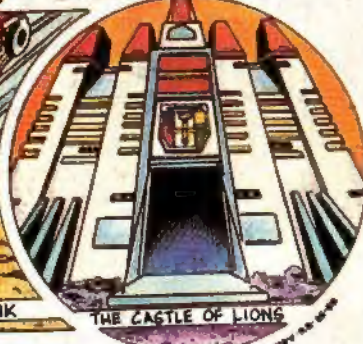
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